

connector and a power connector for supplying power from the communicating station to the hub;

wherein the branching nodes each comprise:

a hub directly connected with others of the branching nodes and directly interconnecting the plurality of communicating stations in digital communication; and

a power concentrator, the power concentrator receiving power from a plurality of communicating stations in communication with the branching node and powering the branching node with the received power, the received power being redundant, in that at least one of the communicating stations can go off-line without stopping power to the branching node.

21. An apparatus for linking communicating stations within a geographical region in computer communication, comprising:

a high speed backbone;

a plurality of communicating stations communicating over the backbone through branching nodes for relaying digital communications at baseband, the branching nodes each housed in different buildings, at least one of the communicating stations comprising a residence;

a hub communicating with the high speed backbone and directly connected with the plurality of branching nodes and directly interconnecting the plurality of communicating stations in digital communication at baseband, the hub largely housed out of doors within environmentally controlled housings and powered by power from a plurality of power sources each located within a different one of the plurality of the buildings;

a protective pedestal housing the hub, the protective pedestal located out of doors;

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a power concentrator located within one or more of the branching nodes, the power concentrator receiving power from a plurality of the communicating stations in communication with the branching node and powering the branching node with the received power, the received power being redundant, in that one or more of the communicating stations can go off-line without stopping power to the branching node; and

a home connection box having connectors adapted to connect a communicating station with the hub, the connectors including a network communications connector and a power connector for supplying power from the communicating station to the hub.

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22. The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising means for transmitting data from a security and alarm system from a plurality of the individual communicating stations to a central security office over the plurality of branching nodes.

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the further non-final action in the above-referenced matter, where the prior allowance of claims has been withdrawn. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and urge the reinstatement of allowance in view of the following arguments and the amendments to the claims.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Accordingly, claim 19 has been replaced by dependent claim 22, wherein the term "physical security data" has been deleted and the claim has been rewritten to refer to means for communicating data from a security and alarm system, which is consistent with the Specification page 19 lines 19-23 about home security system data indicating a break-in, for example. It is submitted that this language cures indefiniteness. It is also submitted that this system, which transmits such data over a baseband network, represents a departure from conventional security system communication facilities.

Claims 15-18 and 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent Number 5,892,912 to Suzuki. Suzuki has been cited for purportedly showing